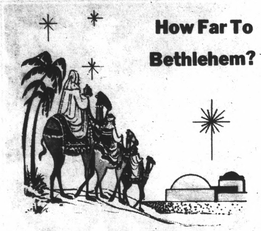
Then And Now

By Frances H. Paulette



Come, let us adore Him! He holds out the promise of peace and joy for all mankind!

It's beginning to look a lot like Christmas.....there is a feeling of Christmas in the air.

As anticipation mounts, so does the tension; we have to get everything done. Every gift for everyone on out list must be bought. We must not, under any circumstances, disappoint anyone, after all, that wouldn't be in keeping with the spirit of Christmas.

Gifts are a pleasure at Christmas, a pleasure to give to those we love and a delight to receive. Are we forgetting something? The greatest gift of all..Jesus. God sent His son as a babe in a manger so long ago in Bethlehem, a gift to all who would receive Him.

Are we forgetting that to really find the meaning of Christmas we must go back to Bethlehem? Stop a minute, won't you, and let's think about just how far it is to Bethlehem.

For Mary, the Mother of Jesus, the road to Bethelehem must surely have seemed so very long and tiresome. She must have grown weary and perhaps she often strained her eyes looking to see the little town in the distance. We know the trip was hard for on that very night after arriving Mary gave birth to her child..our Saviour. The child that would draw all men unto Him. The child that would cause men to leave home and loved ones to travel far to tell the beautiful story of His birth.

How far is it to Bethlehem?

It's really not far to Bethlehem, but we let so many things keep us away. Something blocks our path and seems to say, "Stay a while; wait before you go."

Some of the people who went to worship on that first Christmas season had a long way to go but that didn't stop them.

When word came to the shepherds as they watched their flock, they rushed to worship the newborn babe.

Do we want to worship at Christmas or are we letting all kinds of things keep us from Bethlehem?

The longest, hardest hill we have to climb on the road to Bethlehem is that of indifference and selfishness. We want things for ourselves and those we love. The cause of Christ can wait until all the gifts are bought and paid for.....then, if we have time.....

What are we celebrating anyway?

How far to Bethlehem?

Just as we let the road to Bethlehem get filled with things of the world, we let ambition and antagonism mount up in our hearts until we can't see the glory of the Christ Child.

Though sad, 'tis true we often let devotion for loved ones keep us from worship at Christmastime. We are so busy 'getting' for them that we forget that the best gift can be found by showing them the way to the Christ Child in Bethlehem.

At the Christmas season, what is keeping you from Bethlehem? How far is it from your heart? Have you taken the time to look around you lately? There are so many needs...not just people needing clothing or food, but lonely people, depressed people; people, who for one reason or another, could use a smile and a friendly hand. If you ignore these needs, then you are ignoring Christ on his birthday.

Won't you take the time to reach out, in the name of Christ, to someone at this Christmas season. It's really not so far to Bethlehem once the road is cleared of all the obstacles, is it? What is keeping you from Christ?

May this Christmas be the happiest ever and may your New Year be bright!

GRANTS FOR RURAL FIRE DEPARTMENTS

Rural fire departments may once again benefit from the Federal Rural Development Act of 1972. State Forester W. F. Custard, in making this announcement, stated that the $53,000 grant made available last year permitted the purchase of necessary equipment for 161 rural fire departments. Since the Act went into effect in 1972, a total of $290,877 in grant money has been disbursed in 591 matching grants to 225 fire departments. This year the same amount of grant money ($53,000) is available for allocation to qualifying rural departments. The Virginia Division of Forestry is charged with the administration of the Virginia grant and will absorb the administrative costs to allow the full $53,000 to be available to the rural fire departments.

The grant money is to be used to assist rural fire departments which service communities having populations of less than 10,000. Emphasis is to be placed on assistance with training and the purchase of small equipment items. The funds are available in a matching basis, said Custard.

The Act provides the following guide lines for use in setting priorities for the funds:

1. Preference must be given to those fire departments that have applied for or have received loans from the Federal Housing Administration under Title II.

2. Preference should be given to the newer fire companies.

In order to be eligible for a grant consideration, continued Custard, a fire department must be able to answer "yes" to the following questions:

1. Does the department service a community with a population of 10,000 or less?

2. Is the request for assistance in organizing, training or equipment?

(Large equipment, such as a truck, cannot be considered.)

3. Is the department able to match half or more of the grant requested?

If the answers to the above questions are "yes," the department may make application for a grant. This is done by executing United States Government of Agriculture Form AD-623, which is available from and must be forwarded to the Virginia Division of Forestry county representative or the nearest District office of the Virginia Division of Forestry. District Offices are: Box 198, Waverly 23890; P.O. Box 635, Sandston 23150; Box 3758, Charlottesville 22903; Box 386, Farmville 23901; Box 100, Salem 24153; Box D, Abingdon 24210; Box 2393, Staunton 24401; Box 3306, Portsmouth 23701; Box 759, Tappahannock 22560. The executed forms must be submitted by January 20, 1979.

Due to the comparatively limited amount of money, a series of guide lines have been set up to assign priorities to the applications received, concluded Custard.

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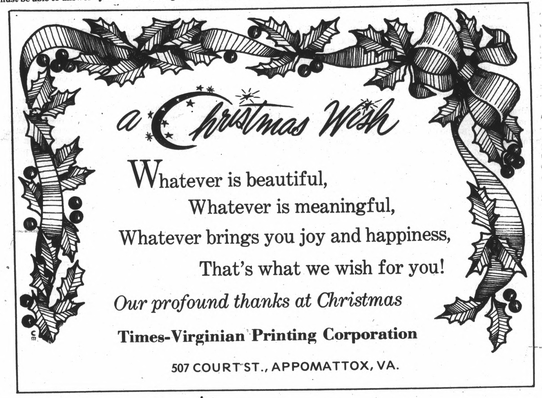

Whatever is beautiful,
Whatever is meaningful,
Whatever brings you joy and happiness,
That's what we wish for you!

Our profound thanks at Christmas

Times-Virginian Printing Corporation
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Season's Greetings

Joy To The World....

May you love and be loved this holiday season, may you give and receive. Above all else, it's time for sharing!

Christmas is the most wonderful season of the year.

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Delight fills our hearts, young and old alike, on Christmas morn. May the joy that illuminates your home remain with you all through the holiday.

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CHESTNUT GROVE

DEC. 11 - Mr. and Mrs. Kemper Beasley, Sr. are celebrating their fortieth wedding anniversary on December 17 at Concord Baptist Church from 2 to 4 p.m. All friends and relatives are invited.

Herbert Wilkerson entered a Lynchburg hospital Sunday for surgery some this week. We wish him a speedy recovery.

The Chestnut Grove Homemakers Club met Monday in the home of Mrs. Nancy Morris for their regular Christmas party.

Mrs. Katherien Carson, of Spout Spring, was a Friday overnight guest of Mr. and Mrs. K. M. Beasley, Jr. They returned home with her Saturday evening for a short visit.

Mr. and Mrs. Johnie Harris and Aaron visited Mr. and Mrs. Kline Hill in Richmond Sunday.

Mrs. W. T. Cook was ill with the flu last weke and her visitors during the week end were Mrs. William L. Carter of Burkeville; Charles Wayne Cook and Janice Carter, both of Richmond; Edward and Kenneth Cook of Prospect.

Mr. and Mrs. Kemper Beasley, Sr. visited in the home of Mrs. Earl Steele of Farmville Sunday afternoon.

Mr. and Mrs. G. L. Berry, of Deerfield, and Mary White of Charlottesville, visited in the home of Mr. and Mrs. Edward Senger Sunday. Supper guest in the same home Sunday were Mr. and Mrs. Preston Senger and family, of Crewe; Mr. and Mrs. Floyd Pope, of Nottoway, and Roger Pope of Richmond were visitors Thursday.

Mrs. Russell L. Harris is a patient in The Virginia Baptist Hospital in Lynchburg. We hope she will have a speedy recovery.

VACATION TRIPS OFFERED TO HANDICAPPED IN VIRGINIA

Travel opportunities for mentally retarded and physically handicapped adults are limited. Many have never had a real vacation experience - away from home, away from their families, away from an institutional residence.

Yet, the handicapped have the same social recreational needs as other people. Vacation-Travel, a program of Centers for the Handicapped (a not-for-profit agency in the Washington, D.C. area) is meeting this important need for residents of Virginia.

Starting in January, the agency will operate one and two-week trips to Florida. The experience will include visits to many places of interest, highlighted by a trip to Disney World. Going to the beaches, dining out, sight-seeing and other social and recreational activities will be in store for participants. Each group will have the opportunity to plan their own activities.

The cost of each trip has been kept to a minimum and covers all meals, accommodations, planned activities and transportation while in Florida. Airline reservatrions will be handled through Centers for the Handicapped. Super-saver fares are available for those registering at least 30 days in advance of their trip.

Vacation-Travel, in its third year of operaton, has grown steadily with participation coming from several eastern states. In addition to Florida, a summer experience on the Delaware shore is offered.

Centers for the Handicapped also operates various day programs, workshops and services for more than 250 adults with nearly all types of handicapping conditions.

For full details on travel opportunities, please write: Vacation-Travel, P.O. Box 1248B, Rockville, Maryland 20850, or call (301) 445-3350.

FOURTH GRADE 4-H MEETING HELD

The fourth grade 4-H meeting was held at Pamplin Elementary School on December 8, 1978.

The American Pledge was led by Tammy Richardson and the 4-H Pledge was led by Darlene Hix. The recreation leaders, Clinton Saunders, Sheila McCoy, and Lisa Daubenspeck led us in singing "Jingle Bells" and playing "Four Corners."

Miss Marsh gave ribbons to the students that turned in their last year's project books. Mrs. Walton showed us some slides on "Four-H Opportunities."

Reporter, Marvin Hamlett

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CVCC To Offer Law Course

The Office of Continuing Adult Education and Community Services at Central Virginia Community College in cooperation with the Young Lawyers section of the Virginia Bar Association, will offer a course in "Law Everyone Should Know" during the Winter Quarter, 1979. The course is designed as a Continuing Adult Education course and does not require regular admission to the College.

The course will be coordinated by Killis T. Howard, a Lynchburg attorney, and will concentrate on six subject areas. Accidents, contracts, criminal laws, domestic laws, real estate and wills are the areas to be covered. Each class will be taught by an attorney who has expertise on that particular subject.

The course will begin Thursday, January 4 and will meet each Thursday night, 7-9 p.m., for six consecutive weeks. The cost of the course is $10.00 and will meet in room 205B of the Bedford Learning Resources Building.

Early registration is encouraged. For further information, contact the Office of Continuing Adult Education and Community Services, Central Virginia Community College, 239-0321, extension 210.

VA Questions And Answers

EDITOR'S NOTE: Following are representative questions answered daily by VA counselors. Full information is available at any VA office.

Q - I have a 50 per cent service-connected disability My wife recently underwent surgery which left her partially paralyzed. Will VA pay for a visiting nurse to assist my wife?

A - VA will not make a direct payment to the nurse. The veteran may request additional allowance for aid and attendance for his or her spouse. An additional allowance of $20 per month may be approved for aid and attendance for the spouse of a 50 per cent service-connected disabled veteran.

Q - I have a five-year $10,000 Limited Convertible Term Policy (W). Can I convert this to a permanent plan?

A - This policy may be converted to a permanent plan before the end of the five-year term which ends on or after the veteran's 50th birthday. It can't be renewed after the veteran's 50th birthday.

Q - I am currently entitled to CHAMPVA benefits but will reach age 65 next month. How will this affect my CHAMPVA benefits?

A - At age 65 you become eligible for Social Security Medicare benefits. You lose CHAMPVA benefits.

We have nothing but cheery good feeling and glad tidings for all our friends over the years. We appreciate your patronage.

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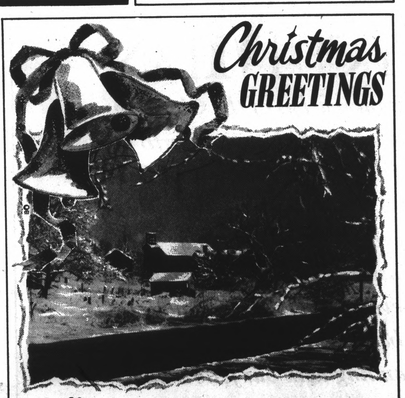

May the peace and serenity of Christmas fill your heart, your home and your life throughout this blessed season and in the year to come. We take this opportunity to thank you for your continued patronage.

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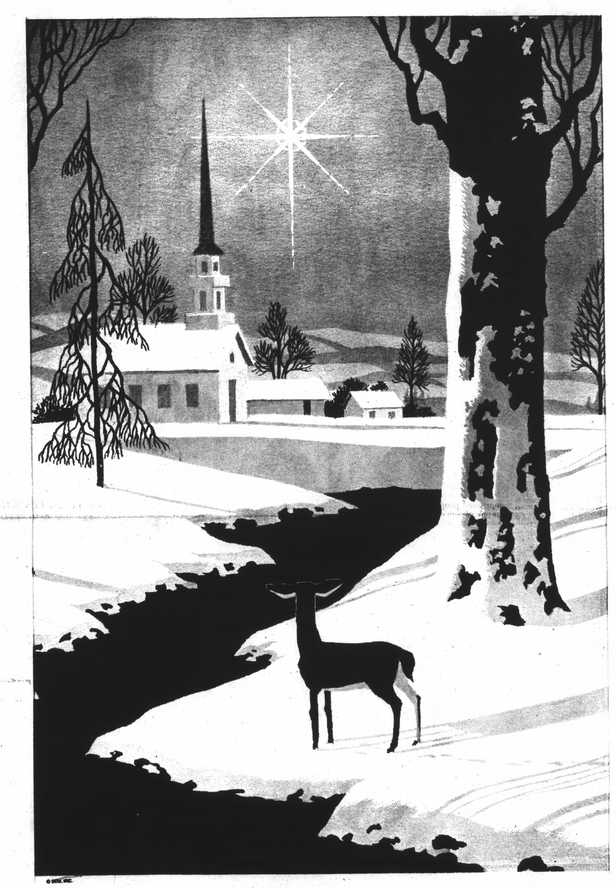

IN THE SPIRIT OF THE SEASON...

The Best of Wishes for the Holiday Season and for always. May the Holiday Season find you feeling joyful for this is the most joyful of all seasons. . . . May you also find Peace in the meaning of Christmas.

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